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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **South Dakota Soldiers celebrate Independence Day in Iraq**

*By Spc. Charles Butler  
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Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery*

COB ADDER, Iraq – South Dakota National Guard Soldiers found a way to feel a little closer to home by celebrating the Fourth of July with a backyard barbeque in Iraq. During this traditional American holiday, not much was different for the Soldiers of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery except the absence of lush green grass and home-grown South Dakota beef.

“We, as Soldiers, think up different ways to pass the time,” said Spc. David Kelley of Viborg, S.D. “Grilling was a great idea for the Fourth! It got us out of the chow hall for one night and changed up our routine.”

At Contingency Operations Base (COB) Adder, the Soldiers pitched in to buy more than 35 pounds of beef brisket from the Post Exchange for the barbeque. Soldiers set up a large grill near the unit’s maintenance bay in the motor pool, brought out chairs and fashioned anything they could find to build tables. Coolers were filled with water, soda and non-alcoholic beer; known as “near-beer” to the troops. After everything was set-up, everyone waited patiently for the grill to heat up so they could get started with the festivities.

Once the coals were ready for grilling, the cook of the event, Sgt. Kyto Kpradith of Sioux Falls, S.D., was called in to work his magic on the grill. Kpradith spent several hours before the barbeque marinating and cutting up the brisket. Along with the other preparations, Sgt. Kpradith made a few spicy dipping sauces for the event to add a little zing to the evening.

“The barbeque was nice for everyone to relax, enjoy some food and play some games,” said Sgt. Kpradith. “Grilling out really makes me feel like being back home and I hope that all the guys involved in the barbeque felt a little of that as well.”

After eating, Bravo Battery troops set-up a backyard golf game that was sent over by

family. Soldiers played and socialized for a few more hours before retiring for the evening, and putting an end to Fourth of July celebrations.

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**Photo Cut Lines:**



**20080704-A-B0933-010:** Soldiers of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota Army National Guard, enjoy some beef brisket and games as they celebrate Independence Day at Contingency Operations Base Adder near An Nasiriyah, which is about 190 miles southeast of Baghdad. (Army Photo by Spc. Charles Butler)(RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/20080704-A-B0933-010.JPG>



**20080704-A-B0933-011:** Sgt. Kyto Kpradith, from Sioux Falls, S.D., and a member of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota Army National Guard, grills beef brisket for a group of South Dakota Soldiers in a celebration of the Fourth of July at Contingency Operations Base Adder near An Nasiriyah, which is about 190 miles southeast of Baghdad. (Army Photo by Spc. Charles Butler)(RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/20080704-A-B0933-011.JPG>

**NOTE 1:** Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is a South Dakota Army National Guard unit headquartered in Salem and Sioux Falls. The unit is currently stationed at Contingency Operating Base Adder located on Tallil Air Base near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, approximately 193 miles southeast of Baghdad. The 180 Soldiers of Battery B arrived in Iraq in early January and are conducting various security missions for the next 10 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**NOTE 2:** Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 780 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror.

Currently, more than 340 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout Southwest Asia. More than 3,800 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, or cell (605) 431-8753.